

The Lithuanian American Council will celebrate Lithuanian independence, which occurred in 1918 as the Lithuanians were freed from the Soviet Union. They will mark this joyous occasion on Sunday, February 19, 1995, at St. Casimir's Church in Gary, IN. Following tradition, the anniversary ceremony will begin with a church service starting at 11:30 a.m. After the church service, the Lithuanian American Council will hold a flag raising ceremony outside of St. Casimir to honor those Lithuanians who pledged their allegiance to independence for their people. The event will then conclude with a dinner in the church hall.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the Lithuanian American Council of Lake County's officers, including: Vincent J. Gumulauksis, who has been president for 3 years; Pete D. Auksel and Casimir Balt, both of whom are vice presidents; Birute Vilutis, secretary; and Walter Ruzga, treasurer. Allow me to also commend the board of directors, whose members include Rev. Ignatius Urbonas, Aleksas Degutis, Alex Navardauskas, Dan Pauls, Frank Petrites, Brone Tampuskas, and Izidorius Tavaras. Finally, I would like to commend every member of the Lithuanian American Council for the loyalty and enthusiasm they have displayed toward their ethnicity.

The Lithuanian American Council of Lake County, IN is a branch of the Lithuanian American Council. It was founded in 1940 and originated in large cities such as Boston, Chicago, and New York. The organization in Lake County initially was headquartered at St. Francis in East Chicago, IN, until recently when the building was demolished. The organization was then moved to St. Casimir where its home is today.

It is my sincere hope that 1995 will bring renewed prosperity for all members of the Lithuanian community and their families. May this 77th anniversary celebration prove to be a most joyous occasion.

JESSIE WILLIAMS PRIDDLE

HON. BILL EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 1995

Mr. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, there are so many who serve on Capitol Hill who contribute to the fabric of what this place is, but who never receive a great deal of public attention or acclaim.

For 18 years Jessie Williams Priddle, remembered by most of us as "Miss Williams," taught English in the Page School at the Library of Congress. Several of us serving here now, who had the privilege of having been pages in the House in our youth, have fond memories of Miss Williams as one who left a positive, good, and enduring mark on our lives.

She was a terrific teacher and had a sparkly personality, and was one of those teachers you never forget because she made it all so interesting.

Miss Williams passed away several days ago. She had a long and fruitful life and touched so well and favorably so many people, especially her students.

Her nephew, Paul Hays, the House Reading Clerk, has shared with me a brief biography of Miss Williams, which I in turn wish to share for

the benefit of her former students and all who knew her.

JESSIE WILLIAMS PRIDDLE

Jessie Lutetia Williams Priddle, 90, a former teacher at the Capitol Page School, died February 4 of heart and lung ailments at an Alexandria nursing home. Born in Hutchinson, KS, she attended public schools there, graduated from Southwestern College in Winfield, KS, and earned a masters degree in education from Columbia University.

She taught in elementary and secondary schools in Kansas and New York, and worked for the United Nations Works and Relief Agency [UNWRA] following the Second World War.

She moved to Washington in 1948, and with the exception of 1 year, taught English at the Page School in the Library of Congress until her retirement in 1967. Among her many students over the years were BILL EMERSON, PAUL KANJORSKI, JIM KOLBE, and TOM DAVIS among sitting Members, as well as former Members Bob Bauman and Doug Bosco, and the former Clerk of the House, Donn Anderson. She was granted a Fulbright fellowship for the 1955-56 school year to teach English as a foreign language in the southern Netherlands towns of Goes and Middelburg.

During her teaching years in Washington she was an active member of the National Presbyterian Church, singing regularly in its choir, and played violin with the Washington Civic Orchestra.

After her retirement from the Page School, she donated one semester of service as a visiting professor of English at her alma mater, Southwestern College. At the end of the semester the college hired her for the balance of the school year.

Returning to Washington in 1968, she became active in the D.C. League of Republican Women. She recalled her election to the league's board as having been the result of the organization's desire for some "younger" officers. She also volunteered in the local Daughters of the American Revolution chapter's program of teaching English to the predominantly Spanish-speaking foreign nurses in several local hospitals.

In 1973, she married Horley Priddle, a high school classmate with whom she had renewed her acquaintance at their class 50th reunion the previous summer. It was her first marriage. They traveled together widely, including an around-the-world tour shortly after their marriage.

Mr. Priddle died last July. She is survived by several nieces and nephews, including Paul Hays, the House Reading Clerk. Private services were held on February 11 in Clarks-ville, TN.

TRIBUTE TO BRYAN WITTMAN

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 1995

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Bryan Wittman of Hamburg, NY.

It gives me great joy to share with everyone in the Congress the outstanding achievements of one of my constituents. Bryan is the son of Mrs. Norma Wittman of North Hampton Brook Drive.

Bryan, a native of my hometown of Hamburg, NY, attended St. Peter and Paul Grade School and St. Francis High School. He graduated from Ashland University with a bachelor of arts degree in radio and television.

Bryan began his career in 1976 for the Erie County Fair and as entertainment director of the Darien Lake Theme Park in New York. He then moved on to become promotions director for the Ice Capades.

In 1985 Bryan began his adventure with Disney. While serving as manager of advertising and promotions for Marriott's Great America Theme Park in Chicago, IL, Wittman was recruited to Disney World in Orlando, FL, as senior promotions representative. In 1988 he was relocated to Disneyland in Anaheim, CA, where he became manager of promotions.

Continuing in his career advancement in 1991, Bryan became director of marketing for Disney.

As of February 2, 1995, he has been promoted to vice president for promotions, publicity, and special events.

Bryan's energy and imagination have been praised by Disney executives as his hard work and abundant successes are a testament to his strong character.

Speaking as a President of western New York, and as a Member of Congress, I applaud the outstanding accomplishments of Bryan Wittman.

THE MISSING SERVICE PERSONNEL ACT OF 1995, H.R. 945

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 1995

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce the Missing Service Personnel Act of 1995, an important bill for those who care deeply about the POW/MIA issue.

This legislation will make important changes to sections 555 and 556 of the Missing Service Personnel Act of 1942 by reforming the Department of Defense's process for determining whether any member of the Armed Forces should be listed as missing in action. In so doing this bill will unveil the curtain of secrecy which currently surrounds any DOD decision concerning a person's status as missing in action.

Mr. Speaker, legislation pertaining to those missing in action have not changed over the past 50 years. As all of us who care deeply about this important issue know, the Department of Defense and the U.S. Government have been continually criticized for their handling of the POW/MIA issue since the Vietnam war. Accordingly, the time has come to make appropriate corrections in how the Government determines who in the Armed Forces should be classified as missing in action.

The bill I am introducing today will, in turn, ensure fairness to all concerned by involving family members, requiring legal representation, and by permitting Federal court review of all determinations. These significant changes will ensure that no soldier or sailor, currently listed as missing in action, will be declared dead without a full and fair review of all available evidence and until all possible considerations have been examined.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues who share their concern with the POW/MIA issue to support this important and fair legislation. This legislation is supported by the American